HARDING B.5 (94)

THE

DURHAM Garland.

In FOUR PARTS.

A worthy Lord of vaſt eſtate,
Who did in Durham dwell of late;
But I will not declare his name,
By reaſon of his birth and fame.
But if you the truth would know,
This Lord he did a hunting go,
He had indeed a noble train,
Of Lords, and Kights, and gentlemen.
Unto fam'd Yorkſhire he would ride,
With all his gallants by his ſide.
In hunting paſs'd the time;
But being weary, as they ſay,
His Lordſhip loſt his noble train
Of Lords, and Knights, and gentlemen,
And hearing not the horns to blow,
He could not tell which way to go.
But he did wander to and fro',
Being weary likewiſe full of woe:
At laſt dame fortune was ſo kind,
That he the keeper's houſe did find.
He went and knocked at the gate,
And tho' it was ſo very late,
The foreſter he let him in,
And kindly entertained him,
But in the middle of the night,
When as the ſtars did ſhine ſo bright,
The Lord was in a full ſurpriſe,
Being waked with a diſmal noiſe.
Then did he riſe and call with ſpeed,
To know the reaſon this indeed,
Of all that ſhrieking and that noiſe
Which did ſo much his ſoul ſurpriſe.
I'm ſorry, Sir, the keeper ſaid,
That you ſhould be ſo much afraid
But I hope that all will ſoon be well,
My wife is into labour fell.
This noble Lord was learn'd and wiſe,
And knew the planets of the ſkies,
He ſaw an evil planet reign,
So called the forreſter again.
And gave him then to underſtand,
He'd have the midwife hold her hand.
But he was anſwer'd by the maid,
Her miſtreſs was delivered,
At one o'clock that very morn,
A lovely infant there was born:
He was indeed a pretty boy,
Which gave his parents mickle joy.
The Lord was generous kind and free,
And proffer'd Godfather to be:
This good man thank'd him heartily,
For his good will and courteſy.
A parſon was called for with ſpeed,
For to chriſten the child indeed.
And after as we did hear ſay,
In joy and mirth they ſpent the day,
This noble Lord did preſents give,
And all the ſervants did receive,
They beg'd God would increaſe his ſtore
For they had ne'er ſo much before;
And likewiſe to the child he gave,
A noble preſent and a brave,
It was a charming cabinet,
That was with pearls and rubbies ſet;
Within it was a cabinet of gold,
Your eyes would dazzle to behold,
A richer gift, as I may ſay,
Has not been ſeen this many a day.

He charg'd his father faithfully,
That he himſelf ſhould keep the key
Until the child could write and read,
And then to give it him indeed.
Pray do not open it at all,
What ever does to you befall,
For it may do my godſon good,
If it be rightly underſtood.
The ſecond part I will unfold,
As true as ever a tale was told,
Concerning of his lovely child,
Who was obedient, ſweet, and mild.

PART II.

THIS child did take his learning ſo,
If you the truth of this would know,
At eleven years of age indeed,
He could both Greek and Latin read.
But thinking of his cabinet,
Which was with pearls and jewels ſet,
He asked his father for the key,
The which he gave him ſpeedily
His cabinet he did unlock,
But he was in amazement ſtruck,
When he the riches did behold,
And alſo ſaw the chain of gold.
But ſearching farther he did find
A paper that diſturbed his mind;
Which was within the cabinet,
In Greek and Latin it was writ.
My ſon, ſerve God that is on high
And pray to him inceſſantly,
Obey your Parents, ſerve the King,
That nothing may your conſcience ſting;
For ſeven years hence your fate will be
To be hang'd upon a tree:
So pray to God both night and day:
To let that hour paſs away.
When he theſe trueful lines did read,
He with a ſigh did ſay, Indeed
If hanging be my deſtiny,
My parents ſhall not ſee me die,
For I will wander too and fro',
And go whither I do not know,
But firſt I'll ask my parents leave,
In view their bleſſings to receive.
Then locking up the cabinet,
He went unto his chamber ſtrait,
And went unto his parents dear,
Beſeeching them with many a tear,
That they would grant what he did crave,
Your bleſſing firſt I beg to have,
And hope you'll let me go my way,
'Twill do me good another day.
For I indeed have made a vow,
But muſt not tell the reaſon now;
But if I live I will return,
When ſeven years are paſt and gone.

Both man and wife did then reply,
We fear, dear ſon that you will die,
If we ſhou'd yield to let you go,
Our aged hearts will burſt with woe.
Yet he entreated eagerly,
So that they forc'd were to comply,
And gave conſent that he ſhould go,
But where, alaſs! we did not know.
In the third part you ſoon ſhall find
That fortune to him was moſt kind,
And after many dangers paſt,
He came to Durham at the laſt.

PART III.

HE went by chance as I've heard ſay,
Unto the houſe that very day,
Whereat his godfather did dwell,
Now mind what fortune him befel.
This youth did crave a ſervice there.
And ſtrait came out the godfather,
And ſeeing him a handſome youth,
He took him for his page in truth.
In this ſame place he pleas'd ſo well,
That above all he bore the bell,
And ſo well his Lord did pleaſe,
He made him higher by degrees.
He made him butler indeed,
And then chief ſteward was with ſpeed,
Which made the other ſervants ſpite,
And envy him both day and night.
He ne'er was falſe in his truſt,
But proved ever true and juſt;
And to the Lord did hourly pray,
To guard him ſtill both night and day.
In this ſame place it doth appear,
He liv'd the ſpace of ſeven years,
And of his parents thought upon,
And of his promiſe to return.
Then humbly of his Lord did crave,
That he his free conſent might have,
For to go and ſee his parents dear,
Whom he had not ſeen for many years,
So having leave, away he went,
Not dreaming of the baſe intent,
Which was contriv'd againſt him then,
By wicked, falſe, and malicious men;
Who had in his portmanteau put
Their noble Lord's fine golden cup,
And when the Lord at dinner was,
He miſs'd the cup as it came to paſs.
Where ſhould it be? the Lord did ſay,
We had it here but yeſterday:
The butler then reply'd with ſpeed,
If you would know the truth indeed,
Your faithful ſteward that is gone,
With feather'd neſt away is flown;
I do believe he has that and more,
Which does belong unto your ſtore.

No, ſaid the Lord that cannot be,
For I have try'd his honeſty,
Then ſaid the cook, my Lord, I'll die,
Upon a tree that's nine feet high.
But hearing what this man did ſay,
Did ſend a meſſenger that day,
To take him with a hue and cry,
And bring him back immediately.
They ſearch'd his portmanteau indeed
In which they found the cup with ſpeed,
Then he was ſtruck with ſad ſurpriſe,
And ſcarcely could believe his eyes,
The Lord then ſaid unto him ſtrait,
Thou ſhalt be hanged at my gate,
Becauſe in you I put my truſt,
And I took you for nought but juſt.

PART IV.

THE day was fix'd and being come,
Said he, O Lord, it was my doom,
Tho' innocent I do declare,
How my Lord's cup came to be there,
What fate decrees none can deny,
I was adjudged thus to die
Upon a fatal gallows tree,
Which my godfather did foreſee.
In travelling pains my mother was,
Into the world I came at laſt,
A gentleman with skill did ſhow
Such death I now am coming to;
A chain and a cabinet he gave
Unto my father which I have;
The manuſcript which was therein,
Did ſhow me plain I ſhould be hang'd.
So the Lord hearing him ſay ſo,
It came into his mind then to
Keep him from off the gallows high
For I think this man is not guilty,
Something I doubt there is in this,
Methinks it is with meer malice
Of the cook and the butler too;
And if ſo, I'll make them rue.
The cauſe he tries a ſecond time,
And found them guilty of the crime;
They were adjudg'd to be hang'd ſtrait,
Indeed they did deſerve their fate.
The Lord he took him, and did ſay,
Have you that cabinet, I pray
Yes, noble Lord, this is the ſame
Was left me with his very chain.
My daughter is a virgin bright,
And you ſhall have her this very night
Wherefore now take delight in her,
'Tis I who am your God father.
Here's twenty thouſand pounds in gold
And when I'm dead it ſhall be told.
You ſhall enjoy my whole eſtate,
For to make you both rich and great

Sold at the Printing-Office in Bow-Church-Yard, London.